

ARC-OVER

MARCH, 2017 EDITION

ANOTHER ONE GONE

This month we lost another one of our members, Caronell Majors. She never quite made it for the ham license but that certainly did not prevent her from participating and being involved with the club. Quite often she was accompanied by family friend Les Ballinger WA6EQQ. She, Les, Sherry & Jerry Sharp, WA6CVL with Nita & Tony Rose, WA6KOI were regulars at club events. They also were known to conduct court regularly most Friday evenings at one of the local Restaurants. To be invited to participate with this group was always a distinct pleasure.

This lady sure could make outstanding peach cobbler. At one of the post Field Day Picnic's in Crane Park, I exclaimed, who made this cobbler ? I'm gonna marry her. Well out of respect for Ivy or the fact that I might have not been that great a catch, she reluctantly let me off the hook.

Caronell was a loveable no nonsense type of lady. Her conditioning was developed by many years of driving a School bus for Turlock High School District. That would condition anyone to face almost any adversity. Her job required her at times to stay with the bus on various out of town school activities in major cities where bus parking was not in the best part of town. Caronell decided it might be wise to indulge in some Marshal Arts training to give her a sense of security during these trips.

One day on the bus there was a foul mouthed student that she threw off the bus because he would not behave. Next morning the kids dad met the bus, jumped in and made a big mistake by grabbing Caronell by the collar preparing to give her a verbal what for. The next thing he knew he was laying flat on his back on the sidewalk, whilst staring upward at the leaves of a nearby tree. Much to his surprise, Caronell had drop kicked him through the double doors on to the sidewalk. Needless to say the bus occupants burst out in an uproar of laughter. She had no further trouble from the kid or his dad. It makes the old axiom ever so true, DON'T mess with a woman who is ornery enough to kick start a 747. Is story embellished a bit? Hmmm, perhaps a speck, but like fine wine it gets better with aging.

All though at times she seemed to march to the beat of a slightly different drummer, but there was no doubt that she truly possessed a heart of gold. One who loved and cared for her family and friends without reservation. Helping numerous disadvantaged kids giving them a leg up found a very special place in her heart.

Caronell you were one of a kind and will be missed by all of us who knew and loved you.



It's Broke

Truly a statement that the person who normally fixes things or gets others to do likewise does NOT want to hear. In fact no amount of rationalization could erase the fact that something was going on with the W6BXN two meter repeater on Mt. Bullion. So tools, pieces, parts all loaded in the Kia Amanti and off to Bullion. Well so much for that idea, after dragging bottom half dozen times we finally halted our ascent just above the stone hunting cabin. The rain had done significant damage to the roadway but what really messed things up was numerous trips by 8 yard concrete trucks up the hill to the new Verizon Cell site where they were hauling concrete for a hole the size of an Olympic swimming pool that was to support a 150 foot tower hurling signals towards Turtle Dome in Yosemite. Seems even those on vacation must have their wi-fi and electronic media devices.

This section of the road just above the hunting cabin was a bit too much for the Amanti.

So back down the hill to re-group. Definitely 4X4 territory. One of multiple 4X4 offers came from Ken Stillwell. So armed with his sturdy Ram 4X4 we were able to assault the mountain once more. In addition to the rain, there was significant tree damage everywhere. There had been more than a gentle breeze that had come through the area during the various storms of previous two weeks.



Just to give you an idea this is the remains of the old trailer radio site owned by Knox LaRue. The trailer is located next to the AirCall repeater building. From all appearances it looks like someone tossed a hand grenade inside the door and ran.

Anyone needing free fire wood, go for it. Most likely there will not be anyone rushing up there in the near future to clean this mess up....

Initial stops were made at the Aircall Building from where the W6BXN internet is fed from. Turned out that there was a defective router port on the Fire2wire router. Subsequently it was determined the Tomato Router in the W6BXN building had also taken a dump.

The final "Do It NOW" rush to the hill was prompted by a low voltage alarm which reads out the voltage when batteries get at a sufficiently low level. With the addition of the New Generator we never expected to hear this alarm ever again. This meant power to the building was off and the generator was NOT running.

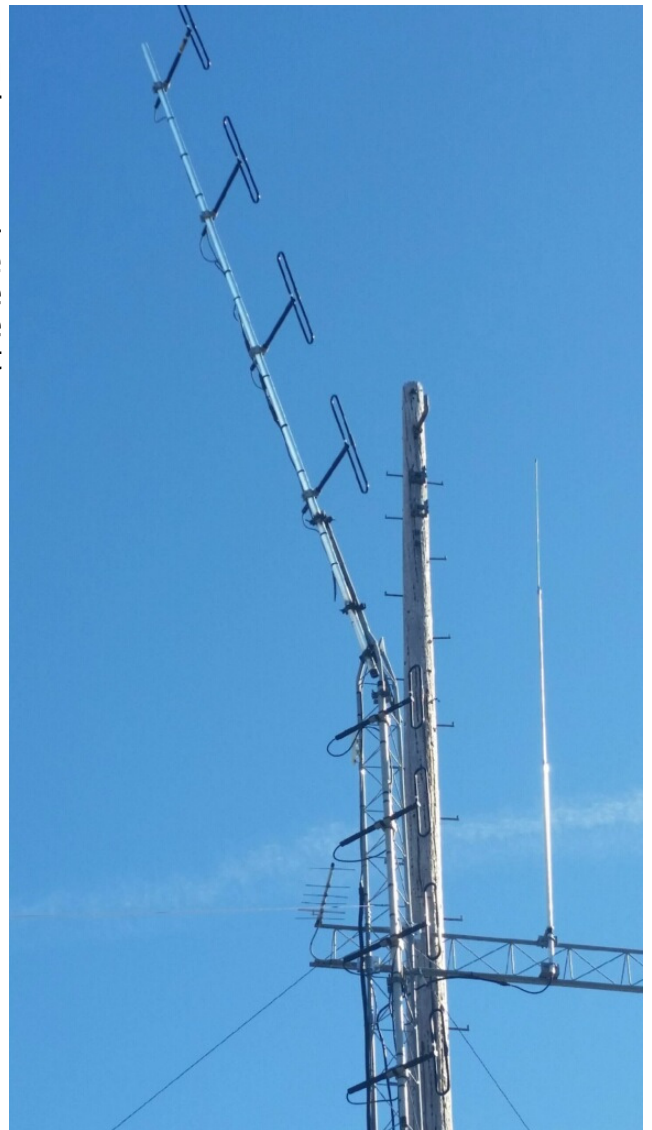
It's Broke (Continued)

We scheduled the meet with the Generator Service Tech from Natural Environment in case there were serious generator issues. In any case he would be able to perform routine annual maintenance on the generator. As it turned out apparently due to a power surge the large buss fuse in the disconnect switch on the power pole had blown. The Generator did not start apparently because the second leg of the 220 vac was still intact. Just as well, though it would have run our propane tank dry, then quit. Current alarm status would not have revealed that malfunction, so we have some alarm work to do. Replaced fuse, everything came up fine, Gen tech did his maintenance thing with hobbs meter showing 100 hours run time, indicating that it was doing its job during outages in that 15 minutes a week on test runs would not account for that amount of time.

NOW to the weak signal on two meters. The 4 bay Telewave Two Meter Antenna was tilted over at a 45 degree angle having busted the top out of the Rohn 25 tower. Tell me now that the wind did not exceed 100 mph after seeing the downed trees, trailer and busted antenna.

This was definitely more than a 10 minute fix with some serious tower work to be done. The following Saturday Ken KF6IDK, Spencer KJ6ART, Walter KI6PBL and Rich W6ABJ assaulted the hill to make repairs

The game plan was to move the existing 220 Telewave 4 pole antenna down the tower to allow for side mounting of the two meter antenna. First though the two meter antenna had to be secured, line from the gin pole then attached and lowered to the ground. At



that time the 200 antenna was moved down the tower and the two meter antenna then re-attached with three attachment points near the top side of the tower. Project took 8 hours. Job well done with special thanks to Ken, Walter, Rich and Spencer.

It's Broke continued



After 8 hours the project was completed with Spencer and Rich on tower. Walter, Chief flashlight holder, ground grunt and project supervisor guarding propane tank. Ken Stillwell Chief Photographer.

Dick Decker, K6SUU will be coordinating communications for the Seventh Annual Turlock Chaplaincy Run. Breakfast Meeting at 7:00am. Huckleberry's Geer and Monte Vista. Will be needing 6-8 people. Let Dick know at dickdecker@hotmail.com or by calling 209-589-2114. Your help will be greatly appreciated...

OffCenter Thrift&Gift

Presents

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL Turlock Chaplaincy FUN RUN

**Saturday @ 9am
April 8, 2017**

Race begins and ends at Denair Park
850 E. Main Street, Turlock

1 Mile - \$10 pre-registered - \$15 day of race
5 or 10 K - \$25 pre-registered - \$30 day of race

Register online at www.active.com
or contact Jennifer Hall at jhall614@yahoo.com

1 Mile 5 AND 10K

TurlockChaplaincy

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New Stuff and Happenings

Our long time friend and multi term past President, Don Thomas has found it necessary to live in an assisted care facility in Merced. Several of the guys paid him a visit last Saturday March 18th. Don is visually impaired so has some difficulty handling a radio. To that end Phil KO6BB put together a HT radio mounted in a harbor freight plastic ammo box. It has a power supply with HT and timer which will turn on in time for the Morning Net. All Don has to do is pick up the speaker mike and talk. Everything is set and ready to go. You are encouraged to come to the coffee with the hams that meets each Saturday at Mc Donald's in the Merced Mall. Grab someone and give Don a visit. He is at Park Merced Assisted Living at 3050 M Street, Merced. It is 1 block away from the mall where coffee with the hams is held.

April 11th Meeting

The educational opportunity for the April 11th meeting will be provided by Grady K6IXA. Several years ago, 1997 the existing HF ham station became almost exclusive dedicated to Winlink Pactor radio email. With three full time stations one each on 40, 30 and 20 meters, operation on 40 meters and above was out of the question. A HF station with decent antennas requires more space than is readily available on a city lot. Chuck Mancebo W6GAM former employee, mission partner and great friend came to the rescue. After all ten acres was more than enough. We ended up with a Remote Station, software designed by W4MQ and was accessible via the internet anywhere in the world. In fact when Chuck and I were doing some work in Thailand a few years back we were able to check into the Modesto commuter net run by Mark WB6BJN. Took him 40 minutes to stop chortling about the fact we had set a DX record by checking into the net from Bangkok.

The ol hotdog computer obtained years ago from Don Costello, W7WN finally gave up the ghost. A computer with Windows 10 was obtained from a local store that specializes in rebuilding units, guaranteeing them for life at a reasonable price. Only problem was the W4MQ software did NOT like Win 10. Research revealed that this software was no longer supported and for the most part Handy Hams RCForb had replaced it. Fortunately it was endowed with the same hardware interface applications that the W4MQ software had provided. One BIG plus was the development of an android app so that the software could be run on your smart phone. What a blessing and windfall for that to occur. If you wish, QST has a descriptive of that system on page 32 of the March QST giving you details of what and how the system works.

The K6IXA remote is now part of the Handihams system network. Hams, SWL-ers, Interested listeners can become members of which there is over a hundred. Licensed hams of which 25 who have requested full privileges can operate all phases of the system including radio, tuner, antenna switch rotors etc... There are hams from all over the world, have to remind them working sixes on 160 does NOT count for world wide DX. One of the more recent interesting guys to sign up was NT6X Mike Baker who is an avid 40 meter cw op and likes to take advantage of the big KLM 40 Meter beam on the remote while working cw on the road. Mike is the supervising scout for the Chicago White Sox. Keep telling him he needs to take a closer look at Tommy Mendonca, Lens Grandson...

The Remote covers 160 thru 440 MHz all modes using a Kenwood TS-2000, Henry SS-750 Solid State Amp, MFJ-998 1500 Watt Auto Tuner, MJ Remote Antenna Switch, Wireworks Carolina Window 196' 160 thru 6 meters, KT-36XA tri-band beam, KLM 4-40, four element forty meter beam, two crank-up tilt over 55' towers equipped with alpha spid rotors.

Gets pretty darned impressive when you can run all of this from your android cell phone. I forgot to mention the android app is \$9.95 available at your google store. The computer software is free and downloadable. You must first free register on Handiham.org to use the system. There are hundreds of other remotes around the world and most allow remote users. Go for it, have fun. Members are welcome on the K6IXA remote. Casey KJ6SSB is a regular user from his villa in Mexico. Dick, K6SUU was able to check in a few times on his recent trip to India.

Wanna know more? Plan on attending the April 11th Meeting

Grady *editor*